Policy against harassment of passengers

4287. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring out a new policy that provides for penalizing airlines for any harassment to passengers when flights get cancelled or delayed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that some of the airlines were not complying with the norms of International Air Transport Association; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) there is no proposal at present to lay down any policy to penalise airlines as the Government does not intend to regulate commercial aspects of airlines. However, airlines have been advised to publish on their website the details of facilities offered by each airline so that passengers are aware of them.

(c) and (d) International Air Transport Association (IATA) is an association of airlines and IATA norms are applicable to member airlines.

Minimum operation period to qualify for overseas operation

4288. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prescribed the minimum period for operation in India by private airlines to qualify for permission to operate abroad;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have recently received requests from some of the private airlines for relaxation in the operational period; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the existing guidelines, the Scheduled Indian Carriers, with experience of 5 year continuous operations in domestic sector and having a fleet of 20 aircraft and above, are eligible for operation on international routes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some requests have been received by the Government for relaxation in the eligibility criteria, particularly with regard to the period specified for continuous domestic operations. This issue will be addressed in the proposed Civil Aviation Policy.

Private airlines operating in the country

†4289. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of private airlines operating in the country at present and the names of said airlines;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint from the passengers travelling in the aircrafts of said private airlines; and

(c) the reason for such a huge difference in the fares of private airlines and Indian?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present, eight Private Scheduled (Passenger) Airlines and one Scheduled (Cargo) airline are operating in the country. These are: Jet Airways, Air Deccan, Air Sahara, Kingfisher, Spicejet, Go Airlines, Paramount Airways, IndiGo Airline and Blue Dart (Cargo).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The fares offered by Indian Airlines on domestic sectors are commensurate with the product offered and are more or less comparable with those offered by the private airlines offering similar product. The fares offered by Indian Airlines are based on dynamic parameters of market forces like competition, seasonality, supply and demand equation, capacity offered, the potential to generate new traffic by diversion of existing traffic from other modes of transport etc. Some of the private airlines offer lower fare based on their business model and level of service offered.

Upgradation of Mangalore Airport

4290. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.